

SCRIPT TITLE – UNAPPEALING

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Cast

2. Cephass
3. Confidence
4. David
5. Mercy
6. Daniel
7. Mayor mckenzie
8. Giovanna
9. Randy
10. Bella
11. Anny
12. Philip
13. Grace

FADE IN

Scene 1

(Cephass'house; Cephass is talking with his neighbours while his wife is just coming back from dropping off their children at school; she greets neighbours as she goes to her husband)

Confidence- Hello honey

Cephass- Welcome my wife

(Both go into the house and head straight to their bedroom)

Cephass – (Wrapping his arms around his wife) what took you so long?

Confidence – Hmm.... Honey! You won't believe all the good reports I heard about our children today. Their teachers were telling me how well behaved our children have been. They commended us so highly for raising them well-

Cephass– Really? That's the same thing our neighbours were discussing with me before you came in. They are highly impressed with the way we have been bringing up our children in the way of the Lord.

(Wearing his shoe in preparation for work)

Confidence (Frowning) – But honey, is it still necessary for you to go to work seeing that you will still not be paid at the end of the month? Why not use the money you are using for transportation for something else?

Cephas (Smiles) – So, what am I going to be doing at home?

Confidence (reaching to knot his tie) – Seeing you at home is enough for me. (Let go off his tie and backs him frowning). What is the government saying about your gratuity anyway? Why are they silent about it? They haven't even started paying your salaries, how do they expect you people to survive?

Cephas (laughs as he holds her arm reassuringly) – listen my beloved wife, since I was born, I have never seen the righteous beg for bread. Believe me, we'll be fine. The government is going to pay very soon, they are working on it.

(Gives her a quick, playful shake and bades her goodbye)

Scene ends here

Scene 2

(Mayor mckenzie's House; it's the sitting room and Giovannais dressed up to visit her daughter)

Mayor mckenzie – So, do you know the new place they are living now?

Giovanna – Yes, Confidence has already text me the address. She said I should call her when I get to the bus stop that is very close to their house.

Mayor mckenzie (with a grin) – Would her husband not be at home this morning?

Giovanna (Thinking) – Erm.... He should be at work by now.

Mayor mckenzie(Frowning) –I don't like that man's attitude, he has not been a good son-in-law at all. Any time we invite him for anything in the family, he keeps giving flimsy excuses and calls our family activities, "things of the world". Imagine the insolence! Everyone is not happy with this his born again attitude, is he the only Christian?

Randy (cuts in) – Daddy I wonder o, I wonder! You won't believe how that man treated me very cruelly during my last visit to their place.

Giovanna and Mayor mckenzie – Erhehn...?

Randy – Hmm... On my arrival, I met them fasting for a church program. Chai! Mummy, that sadist asked me to join them in their fast!

(All react with disapproval)

Yes o, papa, I nearly collapsed of hunger- (Mayor mckenzie cuts in)

Mayor mckenzie – This is unacceptable and you were so stupid to join-

Randy – Daddy-

Mayor mckenzie – Common, shut up! You won't have joined them, what kind of nonsensical church program were they fasting for?

Randy – But dad, I didn't want to sound disrespectful.

Giovanna (Carrying her hand bag) please let me set off before Cephas' talk will spoil my whole day. I'll give my daughter your regards.

Scene ends here

Scene 3

(Cephas at Work; all lamenting about the pathetic situation of things in the country)

Philip – The situation in the country is no longer friendly, our economy seem to be dwindling by the day. Investors have become afraid to invest in our country because the environment is no longer conducive especially with security issues.

Cephas – Hmmm... even the body language of the current administration contributed in sending away foreign investors. It's quite pathetic. Families find it difficult to feed. Yet there are still people in this country who live extravagantly without working; the gap between the rich and the poor is getting wider.

Philip – One sad issue is this our pending gratuity that has not been paid. Up till now, government has not said anything about our gratuity.

Cephas – Serious issue my brother, my wife was almost talking me into quitting this job since we have not been paid.

Philip – hmm... I understand her frustrations, nevertheless, it's only a phase, God will see us through.

Marcus (Clears throat) – Erm... Sirs, sorry to interrupt you both but why did the company choose to retain just the two of you?

Cephas (smiles) – Marcus, you asked a very intelligent question. We were retained because we are believers. Even if we are told to leave, our God would still provide for us another job.

Greg (amazed) – Wow! I am so encouraged by what you both just shared with us. May God continue to use you in this generation.

(All returning glory to God)

Scene ends here

Scene 4

(Cephas' house; Giovanna surveying the place with disdain)

Giovanna (shouting) – Is this the pace you live?

Confidence (In confusion) – I don't understand your question mom

Giovanna – So you don't know the history of this area? Nobody lives in this place and prosper.

Confidence – Ah!

Giovanna – You people must relocate from here. This place is evil, it belongs to the family of late Ogoroburu who died a decade ago, he was a demonic man who claimed to be a god that people should worship. You have to be serious about leaving this place o.

Confidence (Shocked) – Ah! Mum are you serious?

Giovanna – Yes o, don't you think this is the reason why things have been so tight for you people?

Confidence (Shaking her head) – Hmm... mama is true o.

Giovanna – Exactly! Now that you know the truth, don't delay in moving out any longer.

Confidence – Yes mama, I will discuss with my husband about it (offering her a glass of water).

Giovanna(Sips the water) – Thank you my dear, so how have you people been coping since your husband has not been paid salary and what is the government saying about their gratuity?

Confidence (Face dropping) – Hmm... mama, it is well.

Giovanna (peering more intently at her daughter) – Hmm... What about your business?

Confidence (lamenting) – Mama, that one is a forgotten issue o. Why has my husband decided to make life difficult for us? Since he refused to let me wear makeup like others and do the kind of hair style others do, he also made sure I followed that rule in my business. Of course since people were not coming to my shop for the kind of hair style I was allowed to plait, the expenses of sustaining the shop kept increasing. I had no means of sustaining the shop so I had to shut it down.

Giovanna (Looking at her daughter with pity) – Chai! Nawa for your husband. Your husband's Christianity really baffles me.

Scene ends here

Scene 5 –

(Senate on congress about to deliberate on the pending issue of gratuity of Aviation workers who got laid off by the privatization of the Air-port)

Senate president – Having carried out series of investigations on the Aviation sector issue, can the committee on aviation brief us on how far they have gone?

Senator Rice – Thank you my Amiable Senate president. Well, so far, deliberations are still going on with Aviation sector concerning the gratuity issue. They are pleading that the people should exercise more patience before their gratuity will be paid to them. They plan to pay the people with the last batch of payment from the company- (Senator Donald cuts in, senate President Motions for him to go ahead)

Senator Donald– Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will like to first of all express my disappointment on the fact that this issue is still dragging up till now. We have unnecessarily decided to crawl at it-

(Some members murmur and ask him to make his point)

Mr. Senate President, my fellow senators, we are talking about lives; we are talking about families, can we take a pause and put ourselves in the shoes of those men who have diligently served our country? At the transfer of ownership, salary automatically stopped. Yet, the gratuity that would have helped to an extent is being delayed. Tell me my fellow colleagues, how do you expects these Americans to survive? I move for the motion that payment of this gratuity should begin from the first payment. These ex workers don't have to keep waiting till the second payment when part of the money is there-**(murmurs from some members)**

Senate President (hitting his maize) – Decorum please! Please let's coordinate ourselves like leaders and not wild animals.

(Senator Jeffrey raising his hand)

Senator Jeffrey – we are sorry Mr Senate president. I'll like to first plead with us to stop making a big mountain out of the issue on ground. If Aviation sector has said they would pay, they would pay.

Aviation sector is not paying now because the government is in ardent need of the first batch of the payment to boost other sectors. The people should exercise a little more- **(Angry roaring from other members in opposition; the session is closed and adjourned)**

Scene ends here

Scene 6 (Mayor mckenzie's House; as Giovanna's arrival, all welcome her, Bella collecting her bag)

Mayor mckenzie – Welcome back my wife, how did it go?

Giovanna (sitting down) – Hmm.... Mayor, it is very well, confidence is not looking well at all, that husband of hers has decided to make life so hard for them. Worse of all is that they are living in that evil area belonging to late Ogoroburu.

Mayor – Jesus Christ!

Children – Daddy, what is it?

Mayor – That man was a very evil person, anybody who did business with his family died.

Bella – Ah! Daddy, you need to do something about it.

Mayor – What am I supposed to do?

Randy – Make them leave that area as soon as possible, that is if Cephas agrees.

Mayor – Where would they leave to?

Anny – Daddy, anywhere! As far as they leave that death zone!

Bella (thinking) – But daddy, we have a boys quarter of two bedrooms na, or wouldn't it contain them?

Giovanna – Hmm (turns to her husband).... Honey, that sounds like a good idea, what do you think?

Mayor – I can't quite agree more. I will speak to Cephas and convince him about our decision.

Scene ends here

Scene seven

(Cephas' Hous; at the bedroom; she is arranging some clothes in a box; while children are playing around Cephas)

Confidence – My mother came visiting while you were at work.

Children – Daddy (pulling his hand). Our bed time bible story!

Cephas – O dears, ok. Please let me finish with your mom first. Please go to your rooms, I will come tell you your story as soon as I finish with mummy.

Daniel – Promise?

Chephas (Poking him) – Since when has your trust in me being shaky?

Daniel (Giggling) – Ok daddy.... (all children exit)

Cephas – So what did she tell you this time?

Confidence (Frowning) – Really? Why are you always making it sound like my mom’s visits are always poisonous?

Cephas – O honey, don’t tell me we are at this again. I mean no harm nau. Please tell me how it went.

Confidence (Reluctantly) – She said this place is evil; that it belongs to the family of late ogoroburu. Story had it that anybody who does business with the family dies.

Cephas (Surprised but not disturbed) – That’s serious!

(Phone ringing)

Cephas – Hello, good evening sir!

Mayor – How are you my son?

Cephas – Fine sir, what about you and your family sir?

Mayor – We are all fine. Please I will like to see you after work tomorrow, is that ok with you?

Cephas (Thinking) – Em.. ok sir, I will work towards it.

Mayor – Ok then, regards to your children.

(Call ends)

Cepahs (still looking at the phone) – Your dad wants to see me tomorrow. Hope all is well?

Confidence (thinking) – I don’t think there is any issue. Just see him first.

Cepahs – Ok dear (squeezing his wife’s hand before going to the door). Let me go see those children before they declare war on me tomorrow. (Both laugh as he leaves).

Scene ends here

Scene 8

(Mayor mckenzie's house; Cephas is being entertained with a sumptuous delicacy at the dining table)

Cephas (washing his hand) – Wow! Sir, I must say that I am most grateful for this delicious meal you entertained me with.

Mayor mckenzie – Don't mention my in law. So, (both walking to the sitting room to take their seats), I sent for you because of the issue of your accommodation. Cephas, I have known that area you are living for many years now. That place is not a good place. It is owned by an evil man, named Ogoroburu. Anybody who comes in contact with that man does not prosper. I will like you to reconsider that you are putting your family at risk if you keep staying there. Listen, we have a boys' quarter, you can move in there for now.

Cephas (In deep thoughts) – Hmm.... Sir, I have heard all that you have said. I will think about it.

Mayor – Ok, please do give me a call as soon as you take your decision, let me show you around.

Scene Nine

(Cephas House; his bed room, he is having a conversation with his wife)

Confidence (excited) – Really? Wow! That's a super good idea.

Cephas (In shock) – You think so?

Confidence – Oh common! I don't think so, I know so!

Cephas – But we still have a year before our rent expires.

Confidence – Well, I don't think that's a challenge. Think about it, if we move to dad's house, it's to our advantage; no more POWER GENERATING SECTOR bill, water bill, dustbin bill, security bill and all the other bills. Feeding will also be free. (Children excited as they hear this)

Cephas (Reluctantly)– Alright, I will think about it. (All shout with excited)

I haven't said yes o, I only said I will think about it.

Children – Ok dad (All laughing at their father)

Scene ends here

Scene 10

(Cephas at work; conversation with Philip)

Philip (Shocked from Cephas' information of his intention to move to his father-in-law's house) – What!

You can't be serious my friend and brother in the faith. No!

Cephas – I am Philip, I think it is for good.

Philip – But have you forgotten that your in laws are unbelievers?

Cephas (with a shrug) – Erm... that one is there but seriously my brother, things are getting tougher, months have passed and no one is saying anything about our gratuity anymore. See-

Philip –Brother Cephas, please calm down, I understand what you are going through now but have you forgotten that all these are only a trial of your faith? Psalms 30:5 says that weeping may endure for a night but Joy comes in the morning. Can you just cast your cares upon God and leave your worries at his feet? In due time, he will turn things around. He has allowed this trial to make us stronger –

Cephas – O please, all these are easy for you to say because you have a wife that is working. **(Philip is shocked)**. Can you just think about the less financial stress staying with my father-in-law would bring? No paying of those numerous bills anymore.

Philip – Have you also forgotten that 2 Cor 6:14 says, “Don't be unequally yoked with unbelievers?” Have you thought about the effect of your living and sharing with people who are unbelievers?

Cephas – Alright Pastor Philip, thanks.

Philip – Really? Has it come to that?

Scene ends here

Scene 11

(Cephas at Mayor's house; in the sitting room with Mayor mckenzie's entire family)

Mayor mckenzie – You are both welcome my children

Cephas – Thank you sir. We first want to appreciate you for the love you have shown me and my family especially in this trying time **(Mayor nodding his head)**. We have also given careful thought of your offer and we have decided to move in with you, after all, we are family.

Mayor (excited) – Wow! Now you have spoken as my son!

Giovanna (Not hiding her excitement) – Please bring a bottle of wine, let's celebrate! (Bella going to get wine and glass cups).

Cephas – Ah... that might not be too necessary my parents, we are in haste.

Mayor – O, Common, it's not alcohol na.

Cephas – Okk.... Thank you, we plan to move in next weekend.

Mayor – O, fantastic, do you need help moving?

Cephas – No for now, but we will communicate our need in due time if need be. (Standing up with confidence to take their leave).

(Mayor's family escort them both to the door very excited)

Scene ends here

Scene 12

(Philip's house; he just finished reclining with his wife at the dining table when the door bell rings. His wife gets the door)

Philip – Wow! What a surprise visit! Please sit down.

Cephas – Thanks my friend.

Philip – So, how are you? How has been your walk with God.

Cephas (Ducking his head as if in shame) – Good, God has been merciful to us.

Philip – Bless be God, the bible says all things work together for good according to Romans 8:28. My brother, our light afflictions are nothing compared to the glory that would be revealed when Jesus comes. Let's run this race with a focus knowing that there are witnesses who have gone ahead of us and they are watching us from heaven to see how we will run ours, God's grace is sufficient. There is food o-

Cephas – No, no.... please, I won't be staying long.

Philip – Erem.... Ok. You don't seem to be ok. What is going?

Cephas (With a forced smile) – Everything is ok. I just came to tell you that I am moving to my father-in-law's house and I will need your assistance in packing my things.

Philip – Ah! Brother Cephas, when did you take that decision? Did you seek God's will-?

Cephas – Please, don't bring up another issue, are you helping me or not?

Philip (Reluctantly) – It's ok. No problem.

Cephas – Thanks (Gets up to take his leave).

Scene ends here

Scene 13

(Cephas' house ; Philip arrives and helps Cephas pack successfully. Neighbours are seen crying because of Cephas' exit.

Neighbor 1 – Ah, we will miss you Papa Mercy. Who is going to be teaching us the word of God?

Neighbour 2 – Who will be there to encourage us?

Cephas (overwhelmed with the love the people had for him) – We will definitely miss you but don't worry, we will try as much as possible to keep in touch. **{ exit}**

Scene ends here

Scene 14

(Mayor mckenzie's house; Cephas thanks Philip after final unpacking and bades him goodbye. He goes to see his children in the main building)

Daniel (Running to hug his father) –Daddy!

Cephas (Picks him up with a hand) – How is my boy doing this evening? (David and Mercy encircling him, for attention)

Daniel – Great dad (eyes brightened). They gave us a lot of cookies, drinks and tasty meals.

Giovanna (Laughing) – Daniel, you haven't even seen anything yet.

David – That's true dad. I had my favoiurite juice today .

Mercy – O dad, this is paradise, I feel like staying here forever

Bella – Hahaha, sweet you!

Cephas – Alright, time to go to bed now.

All children – O daddy!

Giovanna – My son, today is your first day here, why not you all pass the night here? We have 8 rooms in this duplex you know.

Cephas – Erm... thanks for your kind gestures ma. But I would prefer to stay in the boys quarters tonight, not to worry, my family can pass the night with you.

Giovanna – If you say so.

(Cephas thanks her and says a brief prayer with them before he exits. After Cephas leaves, his children watched a romantic movie series titled, “Tasty for Love”)

Scene ends here

Scene 15

(Mayor mckenzie’s house; Cephas is at Mayor mckenzie’s house to pick his children for school. He is shocked that his children are still sleeping when they are supposed to be dressed for school)

Cephas – What! Why are they still sleeping up till now?

Confidence – Is the tiredness from yesterday’s packing honey, I tried waking them up but they wouldn’t wake up.

Cephas – It’s all right. Later dear!

(As Cephas exits, Giovanna joins Confidence)

Giovanna – Hmm... due the unavoidable distance between your children’s former school and our house, don’t you think it’s better you get them in a school that is closer?

Confidence – I have been thinking about it myself. It is not a bad idea. Do you know any school close by?

Giovanna – Yes, one of the proprietors of the school that is two streets from our streets is my very close friend. I will speak to her for you. (Children yawning as they wake up)

All Children – Good morning Mom, good morning granny.

(Confidence and Giovanna reciprocate their greeting and join Bella, her boyfriend and siblings in the sitting room; Giovanna leaves them to attend to her grain customers. Bella plays with Daniel a little before she carries him to her room with her boyfriend. Bella forgets herself and begins to romance her boyfriend in front of Daniel. While Randy takes David to play a violent video game. On the other hand, Anny drags Mercy along to watch her dance in her dancing room)

Scene ends here

Scene 16

(Cephas' Boyssquatters; One of the boys squatters is used by Giovanna for her grain business. She spilled grains on the floor without cleaning it).

Scene ends here

Scene 17

(Mayor mckenzie's house; Cephas returning from work sees everybody but Confidence watching Tasty for Love; after watching a little while, he begins to condemn it)

Cephas – But why watch this kind of movie? It is sexually immoral and detrimental to the spirit and soul.

Giovanna – O please! Can't you see that there are one or two lessons that can be learnt from this movie? You are too condemning.

(While they were talking, Bella comes out of her bedroom with her boyfriend; Cephas shakes his head with pity and leaves to his boys squatters).

Scene ends here

Scene 18

(Cephas' House: surprised to see grain spilled everywhere; he picks up a broom and sweeps them out; His wife walks in)

Cephas – How come is grain spilled on the floor?

Confidence – O! It must be mother; she has a spare key to the house. You know, the other room that has been locked is where she stores her grains. That's by the way, I just came back from photocopying our children's school documents. It is not easy to secure admission at the school, especially when you enroll at the middle of the term. But thanks to my mom who came to the rescue. She settled them and took responsibility for their school fees so that their admission would be guaranteed.

Cephas (shocked and disappointed) – Hmm... but honey, as Christians, we don't give or take bribes. We do things on merit. Listen honey, they can still continue in their present school. Transportation is not a problem.

Confidence (angry) – what about the stress of early morning traffic? Cephas, stop being difficult!

(Phone ringing; its Bella)

Bella – Dinner is ready sister.

Confidence – Ok, thanks. We'll be with you soon.

Scene ends here

Scene 19

(All reclining at the dining table, Mercy and Daniel are playing and not concentrating)

Cephas – Will you both stop playing and concentrate on your food!

Mayor mckenzie! – My son, don't be unnecessarily too hard on your children. Children will always be children.

(Cephas and his father in law move to the sitting room to talk after their meal)

Mayor – My son, have you thought about the family meeting I have been asking you to join?

Cephas – Yes sir, sorry I won't be able to join.

Mayor – (Laughs in mockery) – Alright, my business social club is in need of intelligent men like you, it has greater prospects and benefits.

Cephas – With all due respect sir, I understand that you really want the best for me but my life does not belong to me, since I gave it to Jesus. For every decision I take, I submit it to the lord, I don't have release in my spirit to join yet. I am ok with where God has placed me for now. Please if you don't mind sir, I am going to look for the nearest church close by.

Mayor (with disdain and disappointment) – Ok

(Mayor Turns to David who is quietly watching everything)

Looking very quiet as usual, I hope you are not like that your father. If you keep behaving like him, people will ride on you. What will you do if somebody insults you?

David – I will tell the person, "God bless you"

Mayor (Hisses) – One of those crap your father is teaching you.

Randy – No boy, you are meant to hit the person back, that's how to make people respect you and fear you. **(Randy teaches David how to fight)**

(Oncephas' way out, he runs into Bella kissing her boyfriend with Daniel staring; he is pained but holds himself. Both carry Daniel inside to watch Anny teach Mercy how to dance a sexy dance.

Scene ends here